Boston Public Library

LATINO LIFE 2012

Books about the Hispanic Experience

Latino Life is a list of recent books concerning the Latino experience, and is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month each year.

LATINO LIFE 2012

BIOGRAPHY

Becoming Dr. Q: My Journey from Migrant Farm Worker to Brain Surgeon
by Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa
Today, he is an internationally renowned neurosurgeon and scientist; at nineteen, he was an undocumented migrant worker in California's tomato fields.
RD592.9.Q46A3 2011

Changing Lives: Gustavo Dudamel, El Sistema, and the Transformative Power of Music
by Tricia Tunstall
The story of the young, charismatic director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic who was trained in Venezuela's publicly financed music program.
MT3.V4T86 2012

Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White
by Lila Quintero Weaver
At age five, the author emigrated from Buenos Aires to Alabama during the racially charged 1960s. Rendered in graphic format with the author's illustrations.
CT275.W3497A3 2012

Feeding on Dreams: Confessions of an Unrepentant Exile
by Ariel Dorfman
The acclaimed Chilean writer and human rights activist recounts his life through times of revolution and exile.
PQ8098.14.O7Z467 2011

It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing
by Luis J. Rodriguez
An ex-L.A. gang member chronicles the troubled past that still beckons along with his personal demons of heroin addiction, alcoholism, and a violent temper.
PS3568.O34879Z46 2011

Juan Marichal: My Journey from the Dominican Republic to Cooperstown
by Juan Marichal with Lew Freedman
A Hall of Fame pitcher, Marichal tells the story of the path he took to become a star player during the 1960s and 70s.
GV865.M335A3 2011

Oblivion: A Memoir
by Héctor Abad
Colombian author Abad relates the story of his father, an educator, reformer, and activist whose criticism of the regime cost him his life in 1987.
PQ8180.1.B33Z4613 2012

+ ***Remembering Che: My Life with Che Guevara***
by Aleida March
Che's widow recounts the story of their romance and marriage set against the backdrop of revolutionary and post-revolutionary times.
CT25.M23 2012x

+ ***The Rise of Marco Rubio***
by Manuel Roig-Franzia
The story of the conservative Cuban-American from Florida who rose from small-town politics to the United States Senate.
E901.1.R83R65 2012

+ ***To Selena, with Love***
by Chris Perez
The murdered Mexican singer's husband opens up about their friendship, forbidden relationship, and short-lived marriage.
ML420.S458P47 2012

Violence Girl: East L.A. Rage to Hollywood Stage: A Chicana Punk Story
by Alice Bag
Born to Mexican parents and raised in a Los Angeles barrio, the author discovered punk rock and became the lead singer of a successful band, The Bags.
ML419.R32B34 2011x

A Wedding in Haiti: The Story of a Friendship
by Julia Alvarez
The acclaimed Dominican author befriended a young Haitian boy. This is the story of her travels to Haiti both before and after the earthquake.
PS3551.L845A3 2012

EXPRESSIONS

All Roads Lead to Austen: A Yearlong Journey with Jane
by Amy Elizabeth Smith
An American literature teacher and the members of her book clubs in six Latin American countries share much more than just a love of Jane Austen.
PR4037.S54 2012

+ ***Cuba: Arte Contemporáneo = Contemporary Art***
The work of more than fifty 20th and 21st century artists is presented in this dazzlingly illustrated collection with English and Spanish text.
N6603.C65234 2012x

Lorena Garcia's New Latin Classics: Fresh Ideas for Favorite Dishes
by Lorena Garcia with Raquel Pelzel
The Venezuelan-born Miami restaurateur offers over 100 of her preferred recipes interpreted through the vibrant, fresh flavors of the New Latin Cuisine.
TX716.A1G37 2011

Mexican Made Easy: Everyday Ingredients, Extraordinary Flavor
by Marcela Valladolid
Mexican classics simplified for quick, crowd-pleasing meals and designed especially for busy parents are presented in colorful illustrations.
TX716.M4V334 2011

* appropriate for teens
\+ available in Spanish

The New Southern-Latino Table: Recipes that Bring Together the Bold and Beloved Flavors of Latin America & the American South
by Sandra A. Gutierrez
From appetizers to desserts, bicultural chef Gutierrez ingeniously fuses the best tastes of two culinary traditions in a collection of innovative recipes.
TX716.A1G885 2011

Simple Food, Big Flavor: Unforgettable Mexican-Inspired Recipes from My Kitchen to Yours
by Aarón Sánchez with J.J. Goode
The Food Network star presents recipes using fifteen flavor bases that serve as starting points for creating many fabulous dishes with special Mexican flair.
TX716.M4S258 2011

Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America
by Gustavo Arellano
A lighthearted look at how Mexican cookery has become a beloved staple of the American table since the introduction of the tamale in 1893.
GT2853.U5A74 2012x

+ ***Tres***
by Roberto Bolaño
In this three-part collection, prose poetry and stories in verse convey the late Chilean writer's bitter vision of the world.
PQ8098.12.O38T7413 2011

HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Castro's Secrets: The CIA and Cuba's Intelligence Machine
by Brian Latell
Declassified government documents and interviews with operatives on both sides reveal how Castro was able to build one of the best intelligence systems ever.
JL1009.5.I6L37 2012

El Narco: Inside Mexico's Criminal Insurgency
by Ioan Grillo
Money is poured into combating drug cartels, but nothing changes. Grillo uses insider testimony and expert analysis to shed light on the lack of progress.
HV5840.M4G75 2011

L.A. '56: A Devil in the City of Angels
by Joel Engel
When a black ex-cop was arrested for rape, Danny Gallindo, one of the few Latino officers in the Los Angeles Police Department, set out to prove his innocence.
HV6568.L67E54 2012

* ***The Maid's Daughter: Living Inside and Outside the American Dream***
by Mary Romero
Second-generation American Olivia was able to attain a middle-class lifestyle as an adult, but issues of privilege, identity, and heritage prove hard to resolve.
HD6072.2.U5R674 2011

Mexico: What Everyone Needs to Know
by Roderic Ai Camp
This overview of Mexico covers history, politics, and foreign relations by answering questions about past and current events, public figures, and cultural beliefs.
JL1281.C339 2011

\+ ***Redeemers: Ideas and Power in Latin America***
by Enrique Krauze
Mixing biography and history, this book illuminates the lives of twelve iconic figures in Latin American history, including authors, politicians, religious figures, and activists.
F1407.K73 2011

The Southern Tiger: Chile's Fight for a Democratic and Prosperous Future
by Ricardo Lagos with Blake Hounshell and Elizabeth Dickinson
Former Chilean president Lagos recalls the overthrow of Pinochet, his own presidency, and Chile's conversion from dictatorship to one of the wealthiest Latin American countries.
F3101.3.L34 2012

The Takedown: A Suburban Mom, a Coal Miner's Son, and the Unlikely Demise of Colombia's Brutal Norte Valle Cartel
by Jeffrey Robinson
A money laundering task force brought down the cartel responsible for sixty percent of the cocaine imported into the U.S.
HV5840.C7R62 2011

This Love Is Not for Cowards: Salvation and Soccer in Ciudad Juárez
by Robert Andrew Powell
In Juárez, the murder rate is among the highest in the world, but the spirit and optimism of the residents is exemplified by their beloved soccer team.
GV944.M6P69 2012

The Wandering Gene and the Indian Princess: Race, Religion, and DNA
by Jeff Wheelwright
A Hispano woman inherited a breast-cancer mutation gene found in Jewish populations, a discovery that led to an investigation of cultural history and modern genetics.
RC280.B8W45 2012

* appropriate for teens
\+ available in Spanish

FICTION

All Yours
by Claudia Piñeiro
When her husband's mistress turns up dead, Inés provides a fake alibi for him. She plots revenge, however, when he can't stop his philandering ways.

+ ***Almost Never***
by Daniel Sada
In 1940s Oaxaca, Demetrio finds himself torn between two very different women: the prostitute Mireya and the virginal Renata.

The Barbarian Nurseries
by Héctor Tobar
After a wealthy couple abandons their children for several days, their Mexican maid decides to take the children to Los Angeles to find their grandfather.

Before the End, After the Beginning
by Dagoberto Gilb
Mexican-American men struggle with old demons, attractive women, and persistent racism in this short story collection.

Beyond the Ties of Blood: A Novel
by Florencia Mallon
Eugenia flees Pinochet's Chile after her rebel lover is murdered. She raises their daughter alone in Boston until asked to testify before Chile's Truth Commission.

Blood Daughters: A Romilia Chacón Novel
by Marcos M. Villatoro
The Salvadoran-American FBI agent suspects child trafficking is to blame when an adolescent girl is found dead at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Curse the Names: A Novel
by Robert Arellano
A Los Alamos journalist, whose lifestyle is already perilously self-destructive, stumbles onto a dreadful secret – an impending apocalypse.

* ***Feeding Ground***
+ by Swifty Lang and Michael Lapinski
This horror graphic novel tells the story of a Mexican family chased by werewolves as they cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

From This Wicked Patch of Dust
by Sergio Troncoso
Cuauhtémoc and Pilar strive to maintain their family's Mexican-American heritage despite their daughter's conversion to Islam and their son's marriage to a Jewish woman.

The Iguana Tree: A Novel
by Michel Stone
Hoping to meet up with her husband in the U.S., Lilia embarks on a harrowing border crossing with their infant daughter, with ultimately devastating consequences.

The Madness of Mamá Carlota
by Graciela Limón
In 1860s Mexico, three indigenous sisters flee for their lives after taking revenge against a wealthy family. They become Empress Carlota's most trusted companions.

A Naked Singularity
by Sergio de la Pava
A young public defender of Colombian descent loses his first case ever and happens upon an opportunity to get away with the perfect crime.

The Neruda Case
by Roberto Ampuero
In 1970s Chile, a young detective is hired to fulfill the dying wish of the poet and revolutionary Pablo Neruda.

One Perfect Shot
by Steven F. Havill
This prequel introduces Deputy Estelle Reyes as she and Undersheriff Bill Gastner investigate the puzzling murder of a road grader operator.

Perla
by Carolina De Robertis
Haunted by a ghost of Argentina's "Dirty War," a young woman is forced to confront the devastating truth about her origins.

+ Purgatory: A Novel
by Tomás Eloy Martínez
An Argentine woman who refuses to believe her husband was killed by the dictatorship finds him thirty years later – and he hasn't aged a day.

Say You'll Be Mine
by Julia Amante
Isabel Gallegos' life is turned upside down when her deceased cousin in Argentina leaves her an unlikely inheritance: three young children.

The Second Time We Met
by Leila Cobo
After a near-fatal car accident, Asher, an adoptee, begins to wonder about his past and travels to Colombia in search of his birth mother.

+ The Secret in Their Eyes: A Novel
by Eduardo Sacheri
A retired Argentine detective recalls his most memorable case: the rape and murder of a young woman. The movie version won the 2010 Best Foreign Language Film Oscar®.

The Sickness
by Alberto Barrera Tyszka
While being stalked by a disturbed hypochondriac, Dr. Andrés Miranda learns that his father has terminal cancer, but can't bring himself to tell him.

* appropriate for teens
\+ available in Spanish

This is How You Lose Her
by Junot Díaz
In these stories by the author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Yunior struggles with the twists and turns of being in love.

* ***Three Messages and a Warning: Contemporary Mexican Short Stories of the Fantastic***
edited by Eduardo Jiménez Mayo and Chris N. Brown
Ghosts, aliens, and other creepy characters inhabit these thirty-four science fiction and fantasy stories.

A Vine in the Blood
by Leighton Gage
On the eve of the World Cup, the mother of Brazil's greatest soccer player is kidnapped. Chief Inspector Silva and his team have only days to find her.

\+ ***We the Animals: A Novel***
by Justin Torres
The youngest of three sons of Ma, who is white, and Paps, who is Puerto Rican, describes his rambunctious childhood and his parents' tumultuous relationship.

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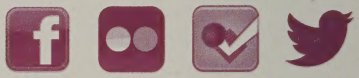

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